

MEMORANDUM

December 7, 2010

TO: The Honorable Chair and Members of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

FROM: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools *AMC*

SUBJECT: **2009-10 HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GRADES**

During the 2008 legislative session, Senate Bill 1908 was passed which significantly changed the way senior high schools were to be graded beginning with the 2009-10 school year. The bill required high school grades to include alternate measures of student achievement in addition to the vital foundation of Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) results in Grades 9, 10, and 11. The additional measures provide an equal focus on college readiness, access to and performance on accelerated coursework, and graduation rates for all students and for those who are academically at-risk.

On August 6, 2010, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released the total number of points earned by each high school on the FCAT components. These points only represent 50 percent of the final School Performance Grades for senior high schools; however, these points were used to determine the FLDOE's Differentiated Accountability School Status in the interim. Today, the FLDOE has released the final High School Performance Grades which include both the FCAT and the non-FCAT component. The results for Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) are unprecedented and historic.

- Of the 64 high schools that received a School Performance Grade in 2010, one-third (21 schools) received a grade of "A".
 - Well over half of M-DCPS' senior high schools (59%) received either an "A" or "B".
- Nine of M-DCPS' ten senior high DA schools (those that had received multiple "F"s over the last four years) improved or maintained higher school grades in 2010 than in 2009.
 - Miami Central and Miami Edison improved to "C"s.
 - Miami Jackson, Miami Northwestern, and Miami Southridge improved to "D"s.
 - Homestead, Miami Carol City, Miami Norland, and North Miami maintained "D"s.
- Miami Edison Senior High and Miami Central Senior High received a "C," surpassing all school grades that have been assigned to the school since the inception of the School Performance Grades program in 1999.
- A number of senior high schools in the District earned enough points to receive a higher school performance grade, but due to a provision in the law that penalizes schools that do not make adequate progress of the lowest performing students, these schools dropped a letter grade. The schools affected by this penalty are:
 - Miami Coral Park, Miami Southridge and South Dade Senior, earned enough points for a "C" but received a "D".
 - G. Holmes Braddock, Hialeah, and North Miami Beach Senior, earned enough points for a "B" but dropped to a "C".

Attachments include highlights of the District's performance and a summary of the results. Individual school performance grade results are available on the District website at: <http://oada.dadeschools.net>. Should you have any questions regarding the results, please contact Ms. Gisela Feild, Administrative Director, Assessment, Research, and Data Analysis, at 305-995-2943.

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Attachments

cc: School Board Attorney
Superintendent's Cabinet
Superintendent's Senior Staff
Assessment, Research, and Data Analysis Staff

Table 1
2006-07 through 2009-10
School Performance Grade Distributions for Traditional Senior High Schools**

	A		B		C		D		F		Total Schools
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
2009-10*	21	34	15	25	13	21	11	18	1***	2	61
2008-09	16	29	12	21	13	23	9	16	6	11	56
2007-08	15	30	9	18	12	24	7	14	7	14	50
2006-07	6	13	5	11	14	30	10	21	12	26	47

* **NOTE:** High school performance grades for 2010 cannot be directly compared to those in previous years due to the addition of new accountability components. In addition, 13 of the 64 senior high schools received grades based only on FCAT components because they did not have a 2009-10 graduating class.

** Excludes typically small and highly mobile alternative education schools.

*** Booker T. Washington Senior High is the only high school designated as "F".